

## Message Text

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21

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-11 MMO-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /061 W

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O 280635Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4311

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 3007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: NEW DELHI'S COMMEMORATION OF BICENTENNIAL

1. AS THE PRINCIPAL EVENT IN THE EMBASSY'S COMMEMORATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL, THE AMBASSADOR ON FEBRUARY 27 GAVE A MAJOR RECEPTION WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AND SEVERAL MINISTERS OF CABINET RANK.

2. IN ITS PLANNING, THE EMBASSY SOUGHT TO FIND WAYS OF DISTINGUISHING THIS RECEPTION FROM THE USUAL NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION. THIS WAS DONE PRINCIPALLY BY FEATURING A CEREMONY MID WAY THROUGH THE RECEPTION WHICH CONSISTED OF THE PLAYING OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEMS ON ARRIVAL OF THE VICE PRESIDENT (THE SENIOR GOI GUEST); PRESENTATION OF THE US COLORS BY A CONTINGENT OF THE US MARINE GUARD; A TEN MINUTE SPEECH BY THE AMBASSADOR, THE THEME OF WHICH WAS -THE MANNER IN WHICH US INSTITUTIONS HAD PROVED THEMSELVES OVER THE YEARS; AND A BRIEF INTENSE FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

3. PRIOR TO THE RECEPTION MEA (TEJA) HAD TOLD US THAT THE DECISION BY THE PRIME MINISTER TO ATTEND REPRESENTED A SPECIAL GESTURE ON HER PART AS SHE DID NOT ORDINARILY ATTEND SUCH EVENTS. AMONG THE APPROXIMATELY ONE THOUSAND OTHER GUESTS WHO ATTENDED WERE THREE CABINET MINISTERS (CHAVAN, SUBRAMANIAM, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND MALAVIYA), THE CHIEF JUSTICE, AND A NUMBER OF

MINISTERS OF STATE AND DEPUTY MINISTERS. THESE OFFICIALS ALSO ORDINARILY DO NOT ATTEND US NATIONAL DAY RECEPTIONS. THE DELHI PRESS ON FEB. 28 REPORTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S ATTENDANCE AT THE RECEPTION IN BRIEF STORIES WHICH HALF THE PAPERS CARRIED ON THE FRONT PAGE, AND THE TIMES OF INDIA RAN WITH A LARGE PHOTOGRAPH AT THE TOP OF PAGE 1.

4. WE ARE UNCERTAIN JUST WHAT SIGNIFICANCE TO GIVE TO PARTICIPATION OF THE GOI AT THIS LEVEL IN THE EMBASSY'S CELEBRATION. THERE HAS OTHERWISE THUS FAR BEEN NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE CURRENT TROUBLED STATE OF US-INDIA RELATIONS.  
SAXBE

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## Message Attributes

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**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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